

Estuaries also play a major role in commercial and recreational fishing. Approximately seventy-five percent of the commercial fish catch, and eighty to ninety percent of the recreational fish catch, depend in some way on estuaries.

Estuaries also contribute significantly to the quality of life for many Americans. Over half of the population of the United States lives near a coastal area; a great majority of Americans visit estuaries every year to swim, fish, hunt, dive, bike, view wildlife, and learn. For many states, tourism associated with estuaries provides enormous economic benefit. In fact, the coastal recreation and tourism industry is the second largest employer in the nation, serving 180 million Americans each year.

These many attributes of estuaries are especially important to me because of the rich coast line of New Hampshire. New Hampshire estuaries contribute to the dynamic habitat and beauty of the State, as well as the economy. Recreational shell fishing alone contributes an estimated \$3 million annually to the State and local economies.

New Hampshire has been in the forefront of the national effort to identify and protect sensitive estuary habitats. The New Hampshire Great Bay/Little Bay and Hampton Harbor, and their tributary rivers joined the National Estuary Program in July of 1995 as part of the New Hampshire Estuaries Project. I am particularly pleased that the Conference Report on S. 835 specifically mentions the Great Bay Estuary and directs the Secretary of the Army to give priority consideration to the Great Bay Estuary in selecting estuary habitat restoration projects.

The Great Bay Estuary has a rich cultural history. It's beauty and resources attracted the Paleo-Indians to the area nearly 6,000 years ago. It was also the site of a popular summer resort during the 1800s, as well as a shipyard. As a Senator from New Hampshire, I am proud to help preserve this historical and ecological resource for future generations.

Unfortunately, many of the estuaries around the United States including those in New Hampshire, have been harmed by urbanization of the surrounding areas. According to the EPA's National Water Quality Inventory, 38 percent of the surveyed estuary habitat is impaired.

The Estuaries and Clean Waters Act is a tremendous step forward in establishing a much-needed restoration program that does not duplicate existing efforts, but instead builds upon them.

The legislation establishes a new, collaborative, interagency, inter-governmental process for the selection and implementation of estuary habitat restoration projects. It is based on the premise that we should provide incen-

tives to States, local communities, and the private sector to play a role in the restoration of estuary habitat. It also reflects the fundamental belief that the decisions of how to restore these estuaries should be made by those who know best—the local communities.

The Secretary of the Army is authorized to use \$275 million over the next five years to implement, with local partners, estuary habitat restoration projects that are selected from a list put together by a multi-agency Estuary Habitat Restoration Council. The Council gets the ideas for specific projects from the local communities and nongovernmental organizations that want to want to serve as partners in the projects. This is truly a collaborative process, from start to finish.

In selecting specific projects, the Secretary is directed to take into consideration a number of factors. These factors include: technical feasibility and scientific merit; cost-effectiveness; whether the project will encourage increased coordination and cooperation among federal, State, and local governments; whether the project fosters public-private partnerships; and whether the project is part of an approved estuary management or habitat restoration plan.

I am particularly pleased that special priority will be given to projects that test innovative technologies that have the potential for improving cost-effectiveness in estuary habitat restoration. These technologies are eligible to receive an increased federal cost share. Some of these technologies are now being identified and tested in the National Estuarine Research Reserve System. The University of New Hampshire plays an important role in the NERRS program.

This bill also ensures accountability through ongoing monitoring and evaluation. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) will maintain a data base of restoration projects so that information and lessons learned from one project can be incorporated into other restoration projects. In addition, the Secretary is directed to submit to Congress two reports, after the third and fifth years of the program, a detailing the progress made under the Act. This report will allow us in the Congress, as well as the public, to assess the successes and failures of the projects and strategies developed under this Act.

S. 835 also includes important provisions dealing with the National Estuaries Program, the Chesapeake Bay Program and the Long Island Sound. I know that the Chesapeake Bay Program has been of particular importance to Senator WARNER. I am pleased that the final bill extended the authorizations for these three programs.

I do want to acknowledge the important role that the National Estuaries Program (NEP) has played in raising

national awareness of the value of estuary habitats. The NEP was established in 1988 and demonstrates what we can accomplish when Federal, State and local governments work in partnership. Participation in the program is voluntary and emphasizes watershed planning and community involvement. To date, 28 conservation plans under this program have been prepared for designated estuaries. I am pleased that New Hampshire is in the process of developing its own conservation plan.

Unfortunately, the National Estuaries Program has not had sufficient resources to adequately address habitat restoration. Until now, in fact, only the development of the plans could be funded, not their implementation. S. 835 will change that. This bill will increase the authorization for the NEP from \$12 million to \$35 million annually through 2005.

I believe that this overwhelmingly bipartisan bill represents an approach to environmental policy that should be the basis for solving all environmental problems. I strongly believe that we should seek to solve environmental problems together, on a bipartisan basis, through cooperation and partnership, and not through confrontation. We should trust the States and local governments as our partners, and allow decisions that affect local communities to be made by at the local level. We must use our taxpayer dollars wisely and effectively; and we should insist on results and accountability. If we do these things, I believe we will do a better job of preserving our natural resources, cleaning up our waters, and improving our air quality.

Mr. President, the Estuaries and Clean Waters Act of 2000 takes an important step in the right direction. It's a bill that we should all be proud of. I thank my colleagues for supporting its passage.

ACKNOWLEDGING AND SALUTING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF COIN COLLECTORS

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Con. Res. 154 submitted by myself and Senator DASCHLE.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Con. Res. 154) to acknowledge and salute the contributions of coin collectors.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. LOTT. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 154) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The concurrent resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. CON. RES. 154

Whereas in 1982, after a period of 28 years, the Congress of the United States resumed the United States commemorative coin programs;

Whereas since 1982, 37 of the Nation's worthy institutions, organizations, foundations, and programs have been commemorated under the coin programs;

Whereas since 1982, the Nation's coin collectors have purchased nearly 49,000,000 commemorative coins that have yielded nearly \$1,800,000,000 in revenue and more than \$407,000,000 in surcharges benefitting a variety of deserving causes;

Whereas the United States Capitol has benefitted from the commemorative coin surcharges that have supported such commendable projects as the restoration of the Statue of Freedom atop the Capitol dome, the furtherance of the development of the United States Capitol Visitor Center, and the planned National Garden at the United States Botanic Gardens on the Capitol grounds;

Whereas surcharges from the year 2000 coin program commemorating the Library of Congress bicentennial benefit the Library of Congress bicentennial programs, educational outreach activities (including schools and libraries), and other activities of the Library of Congress; and

Whereas the United States Capitol Visitor Center commemorative coin program will commence in January 2001, with the surcharges designated to further benefit the Capitol Visitor Center: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Congress of the United States acknowledges and salutes the ongoing generosity, loyalty, and significant role that coin collectors have played in supporting our Nation's meritorious charitable organizations, foundations, institutions, and programs, including the United States Capitol, the Library of Congress, and the United States Botanic Gardens.

2002 WINTER OLYMPIC COMMEMORATIVE COIN ACT

Mr. LOTT. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 816, H.R. 3679.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 3679) to provide for the minting of commemorative coins to support the 2002 Salt Lake Winter Games and the programs of the United States Olympic Committee.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. LOTT. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and any statements relating to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 3679) was read the third time and passed.

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2000

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it recess until the hour of 3 p.m. on Tuesday, October 24. I further ask unanimous consent that on Tuesday, immediately following the prayer, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and the Senate then proceed to a period of morning business until 5 p.m. with Senators speaking for up to 5 minutes each, with the following exceptions: Senator THOMAS, or his designee, 15 minutes; Senator DURBIN, or his designee, 15 minutes.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. LOTT. Therefore, the Senate will be in a period of morning business on Tuesday.

Following the morning business, the Senate will begin consideration of any available conference reports, if available from the House. It is more likely the Senate will not receive these Senate appropriations reports until either late on Tuesday or Wednesday morning. Votes are not anticipated during Tuesday's session. Senators will be notified when votes are scheduled.

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. LOTT. If there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask that the Senate stand in recess under the previous order, following the remarks of Senators HARKIN, LANDRIEU, REID, DORGAN, DURBIN, and LOTT.

Mr. DORGAN. Will the Senator yield?

Mr. LOTT. I am happy to withhold the final request.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I merely want to ask the majority leader a bit more about the schedule. I understand there are no votes tomorrow, on Tuesday, and the potential of votes on Wednesday. I missed part of the presentation of the majority leader for which I apologize.

Is it the intention of the majority leader to try to complete business this week?

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I am happy to repeat it because I know we want to make sure all Senators have heard this. We have four appropriations bills that are in some degree of completion. I think two of them have been wrapped up and two are still being discussed between the House, the Senate, and the White House. It is possible the House will act on one of those appropriations bills on Tuesday, but it appears it wouldn't be until late in the afternoon or even early evening, so we wouldn't

get it until late Tuesday or perhaps Wednesday morning.

We also have a discussion underway involving a tax bill which would provide for FSC and the pension and IRAs that have been approved by the Senate Finance Committee, so that could be completed and be available late tomorrow afternoon. But both of those would also probably be done on Wednesday.

Hopefully, with three or four votes, we would be able to complete the session for the year. That could be done Wednesday; hopefully it will be done not later than Thursday. Of course, that all is dependent upon final agreement between the two bodies and final comments we might get from the White House.

Mr. DORGAN. I thank the majority leader for his response.

Might I inquire on one further issue, the issue of the tax matters that the Senator described? Can the Senator tell me how those tax issues will come to the floor of the Senate and the House? In what form? Attached to what legislation?

Mr. LOTT. I don't mean for that to be all inclusive. I assume we will be clearing bills right along as we did last week and this week. We also have a number of Executive Calendar nominations that we anticipate clearing. I started the process last week to get to a vote on bankruptcy. We hope that will also come up, probably Thursday, before we go out.

With regard to the tax provisions, there is a bill to which they would be attached. I don't recall the number right offhand. It does relate to small businesses, small business tax relief, but I can't give an exact name.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from New York.

Mr. MOYNIHAN. Mr. President, I wonder if I might ask our distinguished leader, he mentioned the Executive Calendar. The Finance Committee has held hearings on six nominees, two tax court judges of some considerable salience, two public trustees of the Social Security trust funds. We have not been able to find a committee presence, a majority in which to report out the measure.

We had hoped that possibly the committee might be discharged. These are persons of distinction who we all want to be in place. Will that be possible?

Mr. LOTT. If I could respond, I understand there are two tax court judges, two trustees with the Social Security and Medicare trust funds, two Social Security advisory board nominees, and Assistant Secretary of Commerce. It is our intent to get clearance to discharge committee and confirm those before we go out—hopefully, maybe even tomorrow; certainly, Wednesday or Thursday. But we have the list and we are going to be working on that.